

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of subject application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 4-9 and 13-17 are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 9), Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumon (U.S. Patent No. 5,208,902) in view of Numata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,114; hereafter "Numata"). Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumon in view of Numata and Lindstrom et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,807; hereafter "Lindstrom"). Claim 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumon in view of Numata and Yamashita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,642,147; hereafter "Yamashita"). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been rendered obvious in view of the combined references.

Kumon is directed a recording apparatus for editing electrical image data output by a data processing system and for visually recording the image data on a recording medium. As shown in Figure 4, a plurality of magnet code portions 47 are disposed on the underside of a universal paper supply cassette 50, wherein the magnet code portions 47 shift in accordance with the position of paper guides 48, 49. When the paper supply cassette 50 is installed in a printer, the positions of the magnet code portions 47 are detected by paper size detecting portions 45, 46 in order to determine the size of the paper in the paper supply cassette 50 and the size of the image area to be recorded on the paper.

Numata is directed to an image recording apparatus for controlling an image recording operation on the basis of a detected width of a recording medium by a paper width detecting means after the recording medium is fed to a predetermined position on a platen. Whether the recording medium is desirably conveyed is determined on the basis of a signal obtained by the paper width detecting means. As shown in Figure 35, a paper width sensor detects the width of a conveyed sheet member to detect its form size (e.g., B4, A4, A6, etc.). A recording control operation is then carried out in accordance with a copying mode corresponding to the detected form size.

Amended independent apparatus claim 4 recites “an input section operable to automatically input type information representing one of said types of said recording material, wherein ... said type information indicates a size and a type of said recording material, and said input section includes an information recording medium for storing said type information.” Claim 4 further recites “a sheet supply container, set at said loading slot removably, for containing said recording material, said information recording medium being secured to said sheet supply container.”

Amended independent method claim 13 recites “containing a recording material in a sheet supply container settable in a printer, wherein an information recording medium is secured to said sheet supply container; ... automatically inputting type information representing one of said types of said recording material by reading said type information stored in said information recording medium, wherein ... said type information indicates a size and a type of said recording material.”

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The Examiner (pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action) asserts that “Kumon differs from claims 4 and 13 in that although he discloses setting print modes (column 4, lines 1-2), [Kumon] does not clearly disclose setting/designating the print modes(s) in accordance with the type information and printing (or laying out) an image to the recording material in accordance with the print mode.” However, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to have modified Kumon to include this feature of the claimed invention because “Numata discloses an image recording apparatus wherein a copying mode is set in correspondence with the determined sheet size.”

Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that neither Kumon nor Numata teaches or suggests inputting type information indicating both a size and type of recording material, as required by independent claims 4 and 13. Rather, Kumon simply discloses inputting size information of the recording sheet. Similarly, Numata simply discloses detecting the width of the recording sheet to detect its form size. On the other hand, the present invention teaches inputting type information indicating both the size (i.e., physical dimensions) and the type (i.e., a standard type recording sheet or a 16-frame sticker type recording sheet).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 4 and 13, as well as dependent claims 5-9 and 14-17, should be allowable because the applied reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

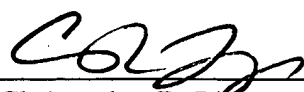
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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